

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed from the United States Patent and Trademark Office on January 17, 2003, the Examiner indicated that the oath or declaration is defective. Applicant respectfully submits that the declaration provided herein is in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.67(a). In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 7-10 and 16-32 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, rejected claims 1-32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Guheen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,473,794, hereinafter “Guheen”) in view of Brown (U.S. Patent No. 5,794,216, hereinafter “Brown”), rejected claims 1-32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Thomas et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,061,692, hereinafter “Thomas”) in view of Brown, and rejected claims 1-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reed et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,862,325, hereinafter “Reed”) in view of Brown. Accordingly, Applicant provides the following:

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 7-10 and 16-32 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments provided herein overcome the rejections made under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims rejected claims 1-32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Guheen in view of Brown, rejected claims 1-32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Thomas in view of Brown, and rejected claims 1-32

under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reed in view of Brown. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 11-15 as amended herein are not made obvious by Severn.

Brown discloses a device for storing information about a plurality of houses, for access by an application program executed on a computer or other like programmable apparatus, comprises a computer-readable storage medium and computer-readable data on the computer-readable storage medium. The computer-readable data is representative of a database containing textual information for each house, at least one exterior image for each house, at least one interior image for each house, and at least one parameter indicating a portion of the exterior image corresponding to the interior image for each house, all in a common database format. Methods, systems, and articles of manufacture for compiling information about a house on a computer-readable storage medium using a computer are disclosed. (Abstract)

Guheen discloses a system, method, and article of manufacture that are provided for planning the testing of components of an existing network framework. First, a pictorial representation of an existing network framework is displayed along with a plurality of components of the existing network framework. Thereafter, the components of the existing network framework are indicia coded in order to convey a plan by which the components of the existing network framework are to be tested. The components may be indicia coded in order to convey an order of the testing or which components of the existing network framework are to be tested. (Abstract)

Thomas discloses an information server adapted to service requests for information has an integral database containing configuration information, application information, and/or content information. The information in the database is stored in a hierarchical fashion with elements that correspond, in some degree, with physical storage structure or individual

information objects on the information server. Path names received in information requests are broken into constituent components and are used to retrieve configuration information, application information, and/or content information from the database and information objects from physical storage. In the database properties stored at one hierarchical level may be inherited by lower hierarchical levels. The database is preferably provided with a programmatic interface that allows concurrent access to and administration of the database. Mechanisms to notify registered users of changes or events that occur with respect to the database are implemented.

(Abstract)

Reed discloses an automated communications system operates to transfer data, metadata and methods from a provider computer to a consumer computer through a communications network. The transferred information controls the communications relationship, including responses by the consumer computer, updating of information, and processes for future communications. Information which changes in the provider computer is automatically updated in the consumer computer through the communications system in order to maintain continuity of the relationship. Transfer-of metadata and methods permits intelligent processing of information by the consumer computer and combined control by the provider and consumer of the types and content of information subsequently transferred. Object oriented processing is used for storage and transfer of information. The use of metadata and methods further allows for automating many of the actions underlying the communications, including communication acknowledgements and archiving of information. Service objects and partner servers provide specialized data, metadata, and methods to providers and consumers to automate many common communications services and transactions useful to both providers and consumers. A combination of the provider and

consumer programs and databases allows for additional functionality, including coordination of multiple users for a single database. (Abstract)

In contrast, independent claim 1 of the present invention as provided herein, includes the following limitations: “a computer device having a user interface to access feature-specific information pertaining to features and contents of said structure and to access non-physical information pertaining to said structure, wherein said user interface includes an electronic model of physical features and attributes of said structure, and wherein said electronic model includes one or more electronic links to selectively access said feature specific information and said non-physical information, wherein said electronic model, said feature-specific information, and said non-physical information are each accessible via a computer network by a user, the user only being able to access portions of a site according to access rights.” And, in light of the inclusion of these limitations, the standard for a Section 103 rejection is set for in M.P.E.P 706.02(j), which provides:

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the references or combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, **the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations.** The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant's disclosure. *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991). (Emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully submits that none of the prior art references, alone or in any combination thereof, teach or suggest the limitations provided in independent claim 1. For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that none of the references or any combination thereof teach or suggest all the limitations of independent claim 1. And, since the prior art

references cited by the Examiner do not teach or suggest each and every limitation of independent claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that the prior art references do not make obvious claim 1. Similarly, for at least the reasons provided herein, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-7, 10, and 13-14, which depend from independent base claim 1, are not made obvious by the prior art references.

Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 15 and 25 include similar limitations to those discussed above in relation to claim 1. And, Applicant respectfully submits that none of the prior art references, alone or in any combination thereof, teach or suggest the limitations provided in independent claim 15 and 25. For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that none of the references or any combination thereof teach or suggest all the limitations of independent claims 15 and 25. And, since the prior art references cited by the Examiner do not teach or suggest each and every limitation of independent claims 15 and 25, Applicant respectfully submits that the prior art references do not make obvious claims 15 and 25. Similarly, for at least the reasons provided herein, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 17-18, 21-22, and 24, which depend from independent base claim 15, and claim 29, which depends from independent base claim 25, are not made obvious by the prior art references.

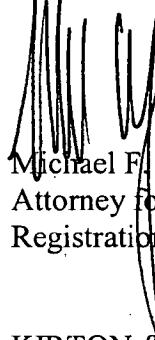
Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that none of the claims of the claim set provided herein is either anticipated nor made obvious from the prior art references. Further, Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments provided herein do not include new matter, as they are supported by the disclosure of the present invention as originally filed.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that the claims are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request favorable reconsideration. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns regarding this communication, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

DATED this 16 day of May, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,


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